

# Fort Sage Off-Highway Vehicle Area Guide

BLM



**Protect your public lands and resources by staying on designated routes and trails!**



**For more information contact:**  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eagle Lake Field Office  
2950 Riverside Dr.  
Susanville, CA 96130  
Phone: (530) 257-0456  
[www.blm.gov/ca](http://www.blm.gov/ca)

BLM/CA/GI-2011/001+8300

**Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return!**

## Hospital Information

**Banner Lassen Medical Center  
Emergency Room**  
1800 Spring Ridge Dr.  
Susanville, CA 96130  
Phone: (530) 252-2000

**Directions:** From the Fort Sage OHV area, take US 395 N toward Susanville, California. US 395 turns into CA 36. Turn right onto Ash Street/CA 139, and continue on CA 139. Turn right onto Spring Ridge Dr. The building is on the right.

**North Eastern Rural Health  
Clinic - Urgent Care**  
1850 Spring Ridge Dr.  
Susanville, CA 96130  
Phone: (530) 251-5000  
**Call for hours of operation and directions.**

**Renown Regional Medical  
Center Emergency Room**  
1155 Mill St.  
Reno, NV 89502  
Phone: (775) 982-4100

**Directions:** From the Fort Sage OHV area, take US 395 South toward Reno, Nevada. Take exit 66, Mill St., and keep right at the fork to stay on Mill St. The building is on the right.

### Contact Information:

- Lassen County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency (530) 251-8013
- California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Division (916) 324-4442
- California Department of Fish and Game, Lassen County (530) 254-6808
- ATV Safety Institute (800) 887-2887
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation (877) 288-7093
- Police, Fire, Ambulance, Emergencies: **DIAL 911**



The **Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)**, located in the high-desert region of northeastern California, is about 45 miles north of Reno, Nevada, and 45 miles south of Susanville, California. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eagle Lake Field Office has designated 90 miles of routes within the recreation area to be used for off-highway vehicles (OHV), such as motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), and four-wheel drive vehicles. Vehicle use is limited to designated routes and trails to ensure that such use remains compatible with other uses for years to come.

The routes traverse a wide variety of terrain. The northern end of Fort Sage is mostly open desert consisting of flat and sandy terrain with some high-desert sagebrush; the southern end consists of a mixture of sandy terrain, hard-packed soil, rock, and steep canyons.

Fort Sage is managed and used for multiple activities, such as OHV use, hiking, hunting, equestrian use, rock climbing, and wildlife photography. Visitors are attracted to the area because of its unusual weathered granite boulders, volcanic outcrops, expansive desert vistas, and abundant opportunities for viewing wildlife and wild horses.

Operation and maintenance of the facilities, roads, and trails within the recreation area are provided by the Eagle Lake Field Office through funds provided, in part, by the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. For more California State Parks information, visit their website at [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov).

### Camping

Please note, camping and campfires are prohibited within the Doyle Wildlife Area. However, the Fort Sage Trailhead is the most developed area for camping and includes picnic tables, fire rings, and space for recreational vehicle (RV) parking (no RV hookups). Since

camping near springs or guzzlers will prevent wildlife and livestock from using the water source, visitors must camp at least 300 yards from any water source.

### Campfires

Campfires are permitted with a current campfire permit, but seasonal fire restrictions may prohibit campfires during periods of high fire danger. Wildland fires can occur at Fort Sage, so be sure your campfire is completely out! To obtain a campfire permit or check fire restrictions, call or visit the Eagle Lake Field Office.

### Water

Potable water is not available. Bring plenty of drinking water, and be prepared for harsh desert conditions. Also, the dumping of grey or black wastewater is illegal.

### Wildlife

Wildlife will eat and scatter unattended trash left in staging and camping areas. If trash cans are full, please pack your trash out with you. Also, watch out for pack rats as they have been known to chew vehicle wires.

### Livestock

Range cattle may be encountered at Fort Sage year-round. When riding near livestock, don't expect the cattle to move for you. Use caution and approach slowly.

### Private Land

By respecting the rights of private landowners and obeying posted regulations, the trails through these areas can remain open.

### Firearms

Hunting and target shooting are allowed throughout the Fort Sage SRMA; however, shooting is prohibited within one fourth of a mile of developed trailheads. Remember, targets and casings are considered litter too, so please pick them up.

## Regulations

This guide does not include every California OHV law. Please remember, it is your responsibility to know the laws. For more information, contact the California Department of Motor Vehicles or visit [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

- Visitors are responsible for knowing area rules and regulations, which are enforceable under the Code of Federal Regulations. Violations are punishable with fines up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 12 months.

- Vehicle use is limited to designated routes.

- All OHVs must have a California green or red sticker.

- Out-of-state vehicles must be legally registered in another state and display a nonresident sticker. For information or to purchase a sticker, visit [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov), or contact them directly at (916) 324-4442.

- All off-road vehicles must have a properly installed spark arrestor that is approved by the U.S. Forest Service and has not been modified.

- It is illegal to ride or drive under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or other drugs.

- State law requires the use of helmets while riding ATVs.

- State law prohibits passengers on ATVs unless the ATV was specifically designed for two or more people.

- All vehicles must meet state and federal noise standards.



## Doyle Wildlife Area

Some sections of trails pass through the Doyle Wildlife Area. Please obey signs, and stay on the designated routes and trails. The Doyle Wildlife Area is managed by the California Department of Fish and Game in Lassen County. This area is made up of 10,740 acres of foothills and scrub, with riparian habitat along Long Valley Creek. Vegetation includes bitterbrush, curl-leaf mountain mahogany, big sagebrush, and California juniper. Many of these plant species are important for the diet of the local deer population. Hunting for deer, rabbit, waterfowl, quail, and dove is permitted during appropriate seasons. There are many opportunities to view wildlife and birds, to include bobcats, coyotes, badgers, waterfowl, and various raptor species.

## Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a small ground-dwelling owl that can often be observed during the day in the high desert. Burrowing owls nest in and use abandoned rodent or mammal burrows and can often be seen standing on one leg or perched on fence posts, branches, or dirt mounds. They have yellow eyes, long unfeathered legs, and rounded heads with no



## Trail Riding and Safety Tips PLAN SMART!

- Purchase and use required safety gear!

- Let others know where you are riding and when you plan to return.

- Always plan ahead. Obtain all required maps, and bring overnight emergency supplies.

- Never ride alone!

- Stay on designated trails. Restoration of damaged areas is often paid with tax dollars and can lead to trail closures.

- Maintain vehicles and equipment in safe and optimal operating condition.

- Act responsibly and have respect for other recreation users and natural and cultural resources.

- Ride cautiously. Trail conditions change constantly, so be ready for anything!

## Sound Compliance Information:

If your OHV was manufactured:	Noise Limit
Before January 1, 1986	101 dbA
On or after January 1, 1986	96 dbA
If your competition* OHV was manufactured:	Noise Limit
Before January 1, 1998	101 dbA
On or after January 1, 1998	96 dbA

\*Competition OHVs are not manufactured to comply with Environmental Protection Agency noise or California emission standards. Refer to your owner's manual, or contact your local dealer to determine the designation of your OHV. If you would like to set up an appointment to have your ATV or motorcycle tested for sound compliance, contact the Eagle Lake Field Office at (530) 252-5303.

ear tufts. Burrowing owls are a BLM sensitive species. Please protect the habitat of the owls as well as other wildlife habitat by staying on designated roads and trails. Burrowing owls are surprisingly bold and approachable; however, please observe them and other wildlife from a distance, and do not harass or chase animals away. If you do observe any burrowing owls or other interesting wildlife species, please call the Eagle Lake Field Office at (530) 257-0456 or the local Department of Fish and Game at (530) 254-6808.

## Indian Ricegrass

Look around and you will probably see Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*). This native plant is a perennial cool-season bunchgrass found in the sandy soils of Fort Sage. Ricegrass is known for its ability to reseed and establish itself on sites damaged by fire. The nutritious Indian ricegrass seeds were a staple for the American Indians. The seeds were once gathered and ground into meal or flour and made into bread. Because the seeds produced by the ricegrass are abundant, plump, and nutritious, it is considered an excellent food source for wildlife.



## Right Rider Etiquette

The future availability of the OHV trail system in Fort Sage depends on you! Always yield to other users. Show your respect when meeting others by slowing down or stopping. Use hand signals to indicate how many riders are behind you. The trails within Fort Sage are managed for multiple uses and run both ways, so anticipate horseback riders, mountain bikers, and other OHV riders coming from the opposite direction. If you approach a horseback rider, follow directions from the rider, and use caution when passing. Please ride responsibly, and share the trails!



tread lightly!  
ON LAND AND WATER



### Tips on Leaving a Good Impression!

- Respect wildlife and plant species – the area is their home. Help keep the area open by staying on roads and trails.
- Keep your machine as quiet as possible. Noise is one of the biggest complaints by landowners and other recreationists.
- Do not destroy or remove cultural and historical resources.
- Be conscientious and minimize your impact by avoiding plants and wildlife, taking your trash home, and respecting other users on the trail.

For more information about the tread lightly! program, visit [www.treadlightly.org/](http://www.treadlightly.org/).